

**CAPSULE SUMMARY****BA-1019****409 Fairmount Avenue****East Towson, Baltimore County****Circa 1900****Private**

The dwelling at 409 Fairmount Avenue was constructed circa 1900 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

This single-family house features a front gable roof and a rectangular-shaped footprint. It is two-and-a-half-stories high, two bays wide and has a center-interior stretcher-bond brick chimney. There is a wood frame shed-roof porch across the full width of the façade supported with square wood posts. The entrance is a replacement single-leaf wood-panel door, and the replacement windows are 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash. The front gable features a round-arched window. The house is re-clad with vinyl siding, the roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and it stands on a solid random-rubble stone foundation. Two shed-roof one-story additions are located on the rear elevation. A small non-historic wood balcony has been constructed on the second story of the east elevation. A chain link fence lines the perimeter of the property.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 1019

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other

### 2. Location

street and number 409 Fairmount Avenue not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Betty Hare

street and number 409 Fairmount Avenue telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21286

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 13096 folio 25

city, town Towson tax map 70A tax parcel 307 tax ID number 903231020

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory**  
1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 1019

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This single-family dwelling located at 409 Fairmount Avenue features a front gable roof and a rectangular-shaped footprint. It is two-and-a-half-stories high, two bays wide and has a center-interior stretcher-bond brick chimney. There is a wood frame shed-roof porch across the full width of the façade supported with square wood posts. The entrance is a replacement single-leaf wood-panel door, and the replacement windows are 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash. The front gable features a round-arched window. The house is re-clad with vinyl siding, the roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and it stands on a solid random-rubble stone foundation. Two shed-roof one-story additions are located on the rear elevation. A small non-historic wood balcony has been constructed on the second story of the east elevation. A chain link fence lines the perimeter of the property.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 1019

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register☐ Maryland Register☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Located at 409 Fairmount Avenue in East Towson, this vernacular dwelling was constructed circa 1900 in East Towson. East Towson is significant as a pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 1019

*Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .07 Acre

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The house is located at 409 Fairmount Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 307 since its construction circa 1900.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	K. Baynard, R. Weidlich, J. Bunting, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	November 20, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

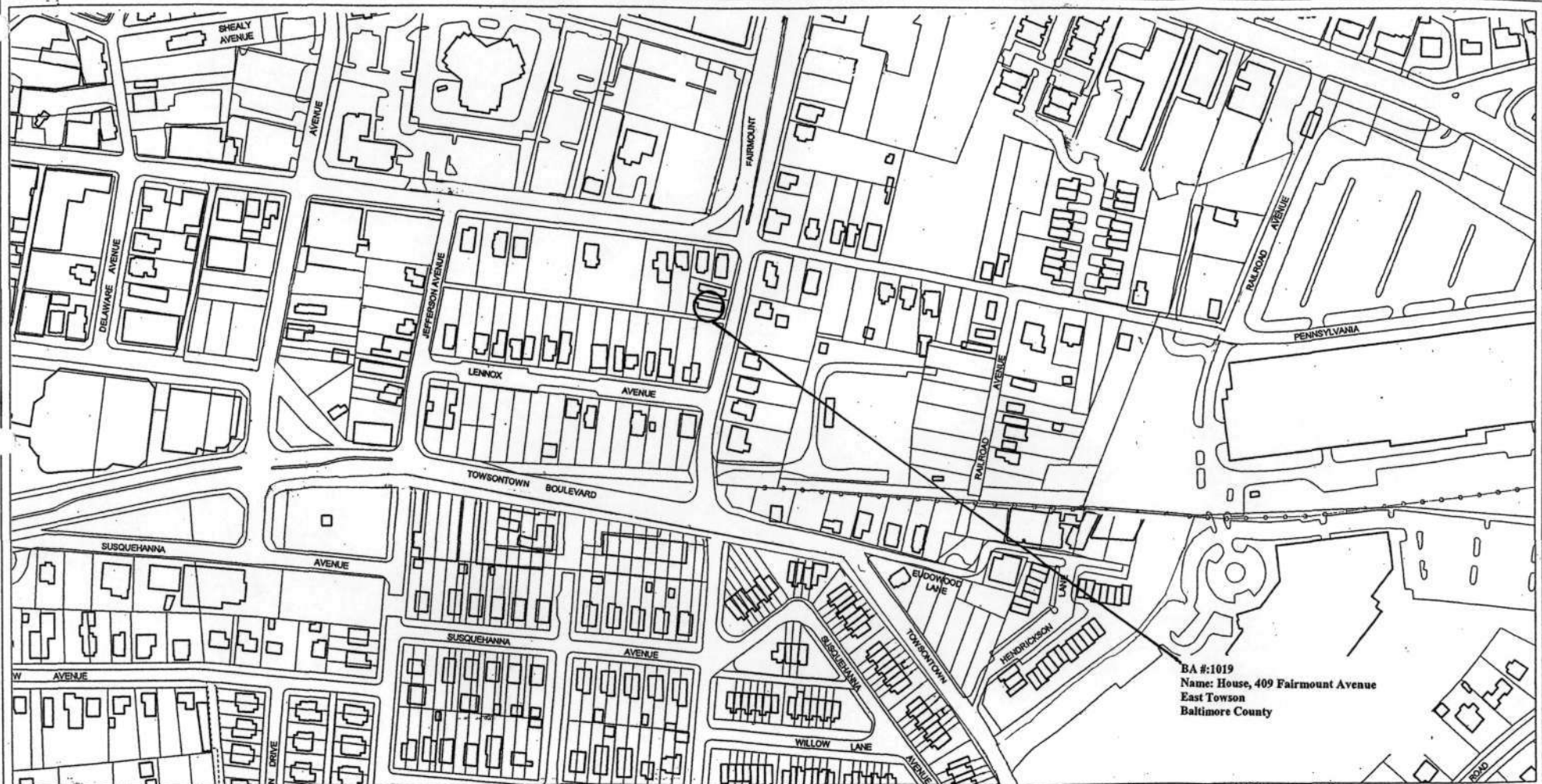
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



# East Towson: Planimetric Data



BA #:1019  
Name: House, 409 Fairmount Avenue  
East Towson  
Baltimore County



Prepared by:  
Baltimore County Office of Planning  
401 Bosley Avenue  
Towson, Maryland 21204  
June, 2001



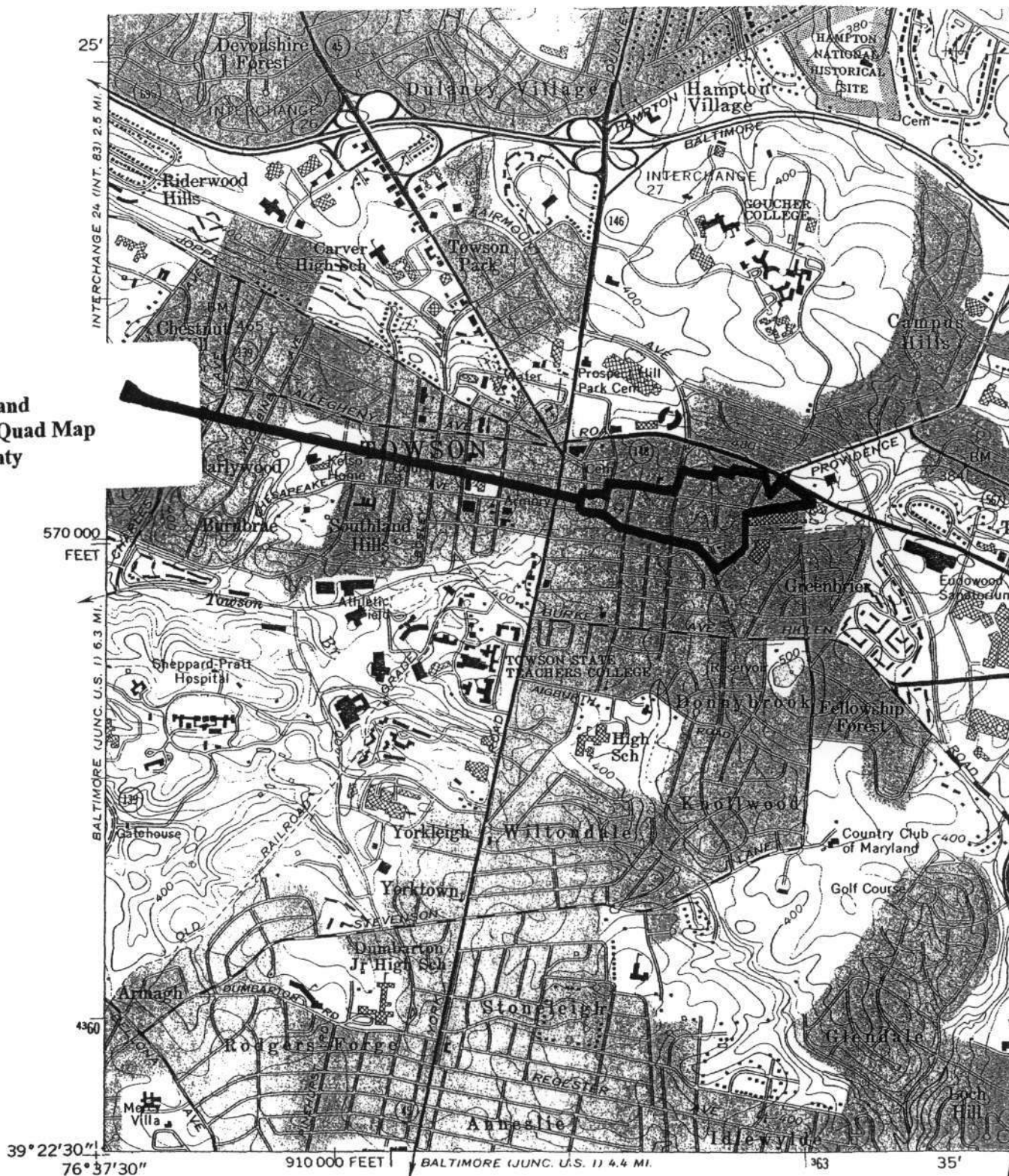
Scale  
1 inch = 200 feet  
1:2400  
100 0 100 200 Feet

## Legend

- |                           |                     |                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Paved Roads               | Study Area Boundary | Hydrographic Features |
| Unpaved Roads             | Buildings           | Vegetation            |
| Paved Parking / Driveways |                     |                       |

Data Sources:  
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)  
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)  
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)  
Coordinate System:  
- Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum  
Elevations in Feet: NAVD83 Vertical Datum  
Date of Data Capture: March 1996  
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'

BA 1019  
 East Towson  
 Towson, Maryland  
 Towson USGS Quad Map  
 Baltimore County



(BALTIMORE WEST)  
 5602.1 SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland  
 Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

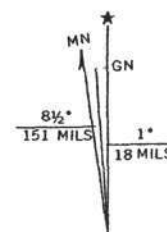
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
 taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944  
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only  
 landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from  
 aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not  
 field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET





BA-1019

HOUSE, 409 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

SOUTHEAST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST

1.82

TRACERIES, 10/2001



BA-1019

HOUSE, 409 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

NORTHEAST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST

2 of 2

TRACERLES, 10/2001

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

THE COOK HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

409 Fairmount Ave.

second

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md.

VICINITY OF Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☒ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Hilda M. Cook

Telephone #: 825-1647

STREET &amp; NUMBER

409 Fairmount Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md.

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #: 5299/884

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

BA-1019 - 409 Fairmount

c. 1915 - 1927

This simple frame house is two stories high, two bays wide, and three rooms deep. A plain porch crosses the street-facing gable end.

BA-1019

**CHECK ONE**

—ORIGINAL SITE

—MOVED      DATE

\_\_MOVED      DATE\_\_

Some of the large white land owners controlled this parcel of land in the past. The earliest record indicates that in 1853 Benjamin Payne owned this property. Emma Maddox (owned a large tract of land which encompassed, Lennox and Pennsylvania Ave. - 300 blocks), controlled this parcel of land in 1884. The earliest indication of the house being present was around 1910 (1915 map indicates the existence of the structure at 409 Fairmount Ave.). Carroll Steppe later conveyed the property to Martin Sloan (1913). Seven years later Martin Sloan conveyed the house to Leopold Ecker (1920). In that same year Leopold Ecker sold the house to Johnny Johnson. Leopold Ecker later gained control of the property (1926) at which time he conveyed the same property to John and Amanda Cook (11/1/26), where the Cook family has resided since that time.

570:313

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

BA-1019

**PERIOD**

☐ PREHISTORIC  
☐ 1400-1499  
☐ 1500-1599  
☐ 1600-1699  
☐ 1700-1799  
☐ 1800-1899  
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ ARCHITECTURE  
☐ ART  
☐ COMMERCE  
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING  
☐ CONSERVATION  
☐ ECONOMICS  
☐ EDUCATION  
☐ ENGINEERING  
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
☐ INDUSTRY  
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
☐ LAW  
☐ LITERATURE  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSIC  
☐ PHILOSOPHY  
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION  
☐ SCIENCE  
☐ SCULPTURE  
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  
☐ THEATER  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

**SPECIFIC DATES****BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

409 Fairmount

This house is three rooms deep, followed by a small addition and porch. The central room contains the stair along its north side. A stove flue rises in the west wall of the front room. The interior architraves consist of boards with several vertically running beads, ending in corner blocks containing concentric circles. The front door, to the south of the facade, is lit by a long window surmounting three panels lined up horizontally. One large panel underneath features a raised swag of ribbons and leaves.

A one-story shed roofed porch supported by thin square posts shelters the door and its adjacent 2/2 sash window. Two windows light the second floor, while an arched window lights the gable. A second-floor bathroom addition protruding from the south side has boxed bracing. An exterior entrance to the stone cellar is also located at this side. The entire house is covered in white asbestos shingles.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marcus Pollock/coordinator Merry Stinson/architect 7/77

ORGANIZATION

Committee to Save E. Towson/Towson Ymca

DATE  
823-8870

STREET &amp; NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Ave.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Towson Md, 21204

STATE

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



BA-1019  
The Cook House  
409 Fairmount  
Towson, Md.  
east

Merry Stinson  
1977